



Harley-Davidson Motor Company, 3700 West Juneau Ave., PO Box 653, Milwaukee, WI 53201 +14/342-4680

November 25, 2009

Ms. Kathleen C. DeMeter  
Director of Office of Defects Investigation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. DeMeter:

The following information is submitted in accordance with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's defect reporting regulations, 49 CFR Part 573.6.

Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc. has decided that a defect affecting motor vehicle safety exists on certain model year 2009 and 2010 Touring family vehicles, including CVO touring and Trike products.

**IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT POTENTIALLY CONTAINING THE DEFECT:**

This recall involves 111,569 model year 2009 and 2010 Touring family vehicles, including CVO touring and Trike products, built 6/6/08 through 11/19/09. This recall covers the subject motorcycle population in its entirety.

**DESCRIPTION OF DEFECT:**

The motorcycles in the population described above have fuel tank front mounts which may distort in reaction to severe frame damage from a frontal collision in a manner that may cause a fuel leak at the weld of the front bracket to the tunnel. A fuel leak in the presence of an ignition source may result in a fire, which could lead to injury or death of the rider.

**CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS:**

On 5/28/09 we performed a 30 MPH 90 degree barrier impact test with a 2010 FLHTK motorcycle. Post test, the vehicle did not meet Harley-Davidson's internal requirement for fuel containment. Investigation of the vehicle showed some small tears in the sheet metal of the fuel tank tunnel adjacent to a weld attaching the front fuel tank mounts to the tank.

In June of 2009, for additional analysis, we retrieved 3 similar vehicles that had previously been barrier crash tested. While the reports on the results of these 3 barrier crash tests did not show any leakage of fuel, close study showed similar damage on 2 of the 3 fuel tanks. The failure mode observed was a buckling of the front mounting brackets in a direction that is trying to tear the bracket away from the fuel tank tunnel in the area of the weld.

Harley-Davidson continued to investigate the nature, scope and safety consequences of this issue. During July and August of 2009, the company developed both a bench test and an analytical model to simulate this failure mode so we could better analyze the condition observed in the full-vehicle barrier test. Additional testing and analysis revealed that the condition results from frame distortion in a frontal impact and how the fuel tank reacts to this frame distortion.

From September through early-November, the company conducted further analysis to understand the correlation between the Harley-Davidson 90-degree barrier crash test and real world performance. The company also reviewed data in its Customer Contacts database (most recently updated in November of 2009), which showed no reports related to this issue. (We did not study our warranty database, as this is a condition that would only occur in a collision, which would not be a warranty event.) To date, Harley-Davidson has not received any reports of fire, injuries or fatalities related to this issue.

On November 19, 2009, based on the information and analysis developed and provided by the Recall Investigation Committee, Harley-Davidson's executive management determined that a safety related defect exists on the subject motorcycles and declared a recall to remedy the issue.

**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM TO REMEDY THE DEFECT:**

Dealers will install a left and right hand brace provided in the recall kit. This brace is intended to reduce front mount distortion during the crash conditions described above.

**SUPPLIER INFORMATION:**

N/A; this fuel tank is manufactured by Harley-Davidson.

**HARLEY-DAVIDSON MOTOR COMPANY PRE-NOTIFICATION REMEDY REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM:**

Harley-Davidson Motor Company incorporates by reference herein the general reimbursement plan it has previously provided to NHTSA for reimbursing customers for remedy costs incurred prior to notification of this recall.

**DEALER AND OWNER NOTIFICATION:**

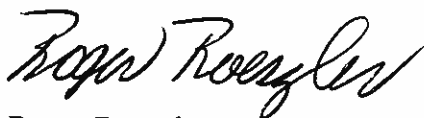
Harley-Davidson expects to notify its dealer network on or before the week of November 30, 2009 and the motorcycle owners on or before the week of December 14, 2009.

**PART 577 NOTICE LETTER:**

A draft of the owner notification letter is attached.

Please advise the undersigned of the campaign number assigned by ODI to this recall.

Sincerely,



Roger Roeszler  
Harley-Davidson Motor Company, Inc.  
0141